

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Heckenberg during the August 10 personal interview, are gratefully appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of interview.

The Office Action objects to the specification because the specification needs to be updated to reflect that the patent application has issued. The specification is amended to update the parent application as being U.S. Patent No. 6,749,787. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hagerty et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,747,864) in view of Beesabathena et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,409,813). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a coated mold insert that includes a layer consisting essentially of chromium nitride formed over an electroless nickel layer, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, a combination of the applied references would not arrive at the claimed invention. As such, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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